

of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund [CDF], Family Research Council, and many others. I am confident that this bill will aid parents with these decisions and encourage the broadcasting industry to adopt a content-specific rating system.

In an attempt to require broadcasters and manufacturers to help parents block shows they considered too objectionable, Congress passed the V-chip law to the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Until this law takes effect in 1998, this bill is the necessary next step in addressing the concerns of parents in the information age.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONGRESSMEN REGULA AND MURTHA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call your attention to a special award that was recently given to our distinguished colleagues and longstanding leaders of the Congressional Steel Caucus, RALPH REGULA and JACK MURTHA. Last month, RALPH and JACK were recognized by the American Iron & Steel Institute and the U.S. Department of Energy [DOE] during DOE's Industrial Efficiency Symposium in Arlington, VA.

On February 25, RALPH and JACK received individual awards testifying to their unflagging contributions to the future of the American steel industry. The awards were in recognition of the central role they have played, both as leaders of the caucus and as individual legislators, in creating the metals initiative program within the energy efficiency function of DOE. The metals initiative, a government-industry collaborative program designed to improve the competitiveness of steel and other metal industries, has received \$120 million in appropriations over the past decade to develop direct steelmaking, advanced process controls, and an optical sensor for measuring temperatures.

In their respective positions as chairman and vice chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, RALPH REGULA and JACK MURTHA have worked tirelessly over the years to promote and expand the economic viability of the American steel industry and the jobs of its workers. The Steel Caucus is a bipartisan organization, which has served as a forum since the 1970's for Members of Congress to exchange information and ideas with steel industry representatives, steelworkers and their representatives, and the administration. And their hard work has paid off handsomely: Today, the American steel industry and its workers are the most productive and efficient in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and my other House colleagues will join me in congratulating RALPH and JACK for receiving this award in recognition of their crucial support for the American steel industry and its workers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this year's budget debate promises another round of arguments over cutting programs and services to American citizens in order to balance the Federal budget. In that debate, it is time to take a serious look at the wasteful practices that drain the Treasury while subsidizing the developers of natural resources from the public lands.

Today I am introducing a bill, the Public Resources Deficit Reduction Act, that will terminate the very expensive subsidies that taxpayers have long provided to many of the nation's natural resource developers and require, instead, that taxpayers receive the fair market value of the public's resources.

While we often disagree about the precise way to allocate limited Federal resources, I believe we should all be able to agree that we should not waste billions of dollars in taxpayers' money and resources. Yet our natural resources policies, often formulated decades ago when it was necessary to induce people to settle the West, still give away billions of dollars each year in subsidies to mining conglomerates, timber barons and argibusinesses. The taxpayers' largesse benefits some of the wealthiest ranchers and farm operators in the United States, while subsidizing environmental damage that the taxpayers eventually pay to clean up as well.

This bill has a very simple goal: Companies and individuals who use natural resources from public lands—minerals, timber, water, hydropower and forage for grazing—would pay fair market value for those resources. In order to provide a transition period, it exempts all existing contracts and phases fair market pricing in over 5 years. But after 5 more years of taxpayer subsidies, this bill asks natural resource developers to pay the taxpayers what their assets are worth.

The bill also contains a number of specific provisions to ensure that particular programs are altered to eliminate unfair subsidies. It would amend the 1872 mining law to require that the taxpayers receive a fair royalty for gold and silver mined on public lands. It would alter programs in the national parks to ensure that the public receives a fair share of the profits made by the concessionaires. It would set standards for eliminating below-cost timber sales and charging fair market value for grazing and the use of utility rights-of-way across public land. It would move the income from timber and grazing programs on-budget, so that the receipts are accounted for in annual budgeting.

Another area addressed by this bill is the inconsistency of Federal irrigation and farm support policies, which often contradict one another or provide enormous combined subsidies. To address these inconsistencies, the bill would eliminate Federal irrigation subsidies to farmers already receiving payments under the Agricultural Market Transition Act. It also would require that the irrigation subsidies be counted into the cap on farm subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, we have asked all of our citizens to accept some cuts in Federal programs

in order to balance the budget. We told welfare recipients their aid would end after 5 years. This bill would tell our citizens that we can be responsible stewards of the assets they have entrusted to us, and that we will not longer demand that they tolerate wasteful subsidy programs.

In the last Congress, this legislation was introduced with dozens of co-sponsors, including Members of both political parties. It was not even accorded a hearing by the Committee on Resources. The last Congress utterly failed to reform any of the major resource subsidy programs that currently apply to billions of dollars in public resources.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford such indifference again in the 105th Congress. We cannot afford environmental indifference to the consequences of subsidized resource development and usage. And we cannot afford the fiscal burden of maintaining, on the eve of the 21st century, subsidy programs born at the end of the 19th century.

LINDSAY WASHICK WINS PARADE MAGAZINE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Lindsay Washick, daughter of Bob Washick of Conyngham, PA, for winning first place in a contest sponsored by Parade Magazine and the Times-Leader newspaper of Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Lindsay is a 14-year-old ninth grader at MMI preparatory school in Freeland, PA.

Lindsay's article, entitled "Our President's Greatest Challenge," was chosen from six finalists. As a reward as part of the Young Columbus Program, Lindsay will act as a young ambassador on a trip to Ireland in April.

Lindsay is an example of the fine quality of students who are dedicated to learning and expanding their knowledge of the world they live in. The youth of today are tomorrow's future and I congratulate Lindsay on winning first prize.

I am inserting her article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Text from Lindsay Washick:

With November fifth long and gone, the votes have been counted and tallied, and the leader of our country has been decided. Mr. William J. Clinton will be our president for the next four years.

With a new term starting, many people are anxious to see what he'll be concentrating the most on. Will it be drugs, health care, the environment, our involvement in foreign countries, or balancing the budget? All of these issues are very important but every time the very important issues do come up, there is always one that's overlooked—The Young People of America.

I think that the greatest challenge to our new President is to be getting in touch with our young people, and getting them involved.

I just recently turned 14, and am therefore an adolescent. I'm, involved in, and have a wide variety of liking, but when it comes to government, and politics, I'm always the last one to know and/or care. The rest of the nation is in such a tizzy about everything else, that they're overlooking us too. The President goes where the people go, and that's always away from us. But, every now and